

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) A filter comprising a corrugated sheet including a filter medium folded multiple times in a zig-zag manner to form a plurality of pleats, the pleats including a pair of pleat legs joined in a pleat tip region at an apex of each pleat, wherein each pleat leg has a thickness and the pleat tip region is formed into a non-bulbous, tapered shape having an end and wherein a thickness of the pleat tip region at a point spaced one to four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than or equal to twice the pleat leg thickness.

18. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the pleat tip region is reformed.

19. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the pleat legs contact each other at the pleat tip region.

20. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the sheet comprises a filter composite including at least one drainage layer and at least one filter medium layer.

21. (New) A filter according to claim 20 wherein the filter composite includes first and second drainage layers, a filter medium layer being positioned between the first and second drainage layers.

22. (New) A filter according to claim 20 wherein a drainage layer comprises a polymeric material.

23. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the filter composite is scored.

24. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the filter medium comprises a polymeric material.

25. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the pleat tip region comprises a fused or solidified portion.

26. (New) A filter according to claim 17 wherein the thickness of the pleat tip region at a point spaced from one to two pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than twice the pleat leg thickness.

27. (New) A method of making a filter comprising:

folding a sheet including a filter medium multiple times in a zig-zag manner to form a plurality of pleats, wherein the pleats include a pair of pleat legs joined in a pleat tip region at an apex of each pleat and wherein each pleat leg has a thickness; and

forming the pleat tip regions into a non-bulbous, tapered shape having an end, wherein a thickness of each pleat tip region at a point spaced one to four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region is less than or equal to twice the pleat leg thickness.

28. (New) A method according to claim 27 wherein forming a plurality of pleats includes corrugating the sheet to form one or more pleats and wherein forming the pleat tip regions includes reforming the pleat tip regions after corrugating the sheet.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein reforming the pleat tip regions includes applying pressure and/or heat to the pleat tip regions.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein applying pressure and/or heat to the pleat tip regions includes melting or softening a polymeric material and wherein reforming the pleat tip regions further includes forming a fused or solid portion.

31. (New) A method according to claim 27 wherein forming pleat tip regions includes applying pressure and/or heat to pleat tip regions.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein applying pressure and/or heat to the pleat tip regions includes melting or softening a polymeric material and then forming a fused or solid portion.

33. (New) A method according to claim 27 wherein forming a plurality of pleats includes scoring the sheet.

34. (New) A method according to claim 27 wherein folding a sheet includes folding a filter composite including first and second drainage layers and the filter medium between them, at least one of the first drainage layer, the second drainage layer and the filter medium comprising a polymeric material, and wherein forming the pleat tip regions includes reforming the pleat tip regions after the filter composite is folded to form the plurality of pleats, reforming the pleats including melting or softening the polymeric material in the pleat tip regions and then fusing or solidifying the polymeric material under pressure to form the non-bulbous, tapered pleat tip regions.
35. (New) A filter comprising a corrugated filter composite including first and second drainage layers and a filter medium positioned between them, at least one of the first drainage layer, the second drainage layer and the filter medium comprising a polymeric material, wherein the corrugated filter composite is folded multiple times in a zig-zag fashion to form a plurality of pleats and each pleat includes a pair legs joined in a pleat tip region at an apex of the pleat, wherein the polymeric material in the pleat tip region is fused or solidified to form a non-bulbous, tapered shape having an end, and wherein each pleat leg has a thickness and, at a point spaced one to four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of each pleat tip region, the pleat tip region has a thickness which is less than or equal to twice the pleat leg thickness.
36. (New) A filter according to claim 35 wherein each pair of pleat legs have facing inner surfaces and the inner surfaces contact each other in the pleat tip region.